

ARCAM

7 • 8 • 8SE • 9 • CD players

HANDBOOK

Thank you for choosing ARCAM

USING THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook has been designed to make the installation and use of your CD player straightforward. However, we appreciate that some of our customers require further technical information. When extra technical information is available you will see the following, at the end of the section: [Want more info? See Technical notes on page 5]

SAFETY

There are 18 safety items, set out on the back cover of this handbook. For your own safety, and to ensure that your CD player works properly, we strongly recommend that you read them.

SEVERAL MODELS

This handbook covers four CD players:

Alpha 7
Alpha 8
Alpha 8SE
Alpha 9

Many features are common to more than one of these CD players. [Want more info? See no. 1 in Technical notes on page 5]

There is a remote control handset supplied.

Installation

CONNECTING TO A POWER SUPPLY

WRONG PLUG ?
If the plug supplied with the amplifier does not fit your power supply, see no. 3 in Technical notes on page 5.

Check that your mains supply voltage agrees with the voltage setting indicated above the POWER INLET on the rear panel of the CD player.

If your mains supply voltage is different, consult your Arcam dealer or Arcam Customer Support on +44 (0)1223 203203.

PLUGGING IN
Push the plug (IEC line socket) of the cable supplied with the CD player, into the socket (POWER INLET) in the back of the CD player. Make sure it is pushed in firmly.
[Want more info? See no. 2 in Technical notes on page 5]

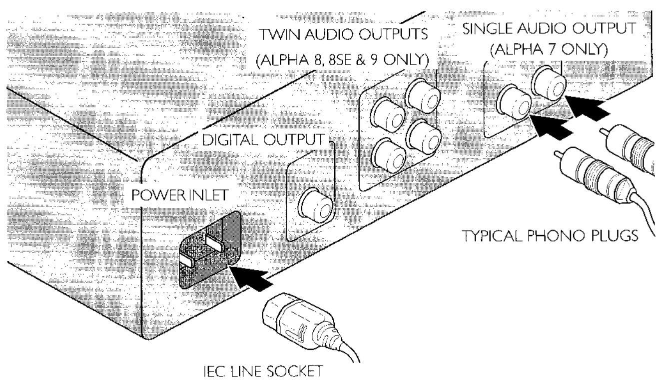
Push the plug on other end of the cable into your power supply socket.

The CD Player is double insulated and does not require an earth. This is why there is no centre(earth) pin in the socket (POWER INLET).

CONNECTING TO OTHER EQUIPMENT

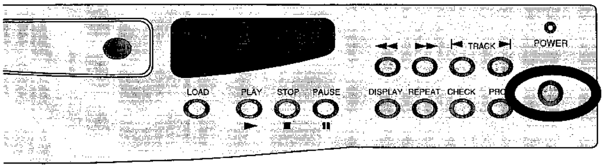
DIGITAL OUTPUT
Use this socket if you are using a separate digital to analogue converter (DAC) or digital recorder. Connect to the DAC or recorder's digital input using a suitable 75 ohm screened cable. Never connect the digital output socket to a conventional audio input.

AUDIO OUTPUTS
Connect to your amplifier's CD or AUX inputs using suitable high quality interconnect cables. Insert the phono plug which is red [or marked 'R', or with a red ring] into the socket labelled 'R' and the other plug into the socket labelled 'L'.
ALPHA 8, 8SE & 9 ONLY. The second set of sockets can be used to connect to a second amplifier set up for multi room use.



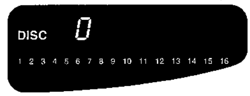
Note
Interconnecting cables are not supplied with this CD Player. We recommend high quality cables as inferior quality cables will degrade the sound quality of your system. Please contact your Arcam dealer or Arcam customer support for details of suitable cables.

Using your CD player - getting started

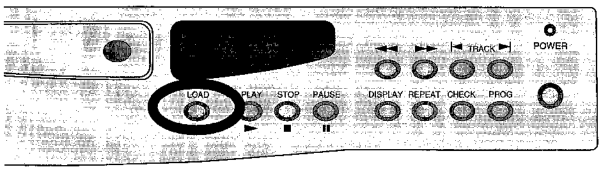


POWER

Press this button to switch the CD player on and off.
When first powered up with no CD installed you will see...
...first this ...then this





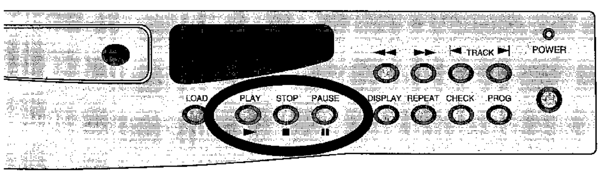


LOAD (called OPEN on remote control)

To install a CD, press 'LOAD'. The CD tray opens, it accepts both 8 cm and 12 cm discs. Place the CD in the tray with the label side uppermost. Press 'LOAD' again [or press 'PLAY', or gently push the tray in 5mm], the tray closes. You will see 'DISC', along with the total number of tracks and total disc time, eg.



If the disc has more than 16 tracks then the word 'OVER' is also shown on the display. The display returns to '0' after a few seconds. It is now ready to play.



PLAY ►

Press to play the CD. To restart the disc from track 1, press 'STOP' and then 'PLAY'.
Note:
Make sure your amplifier (input source selector) is set to CD.

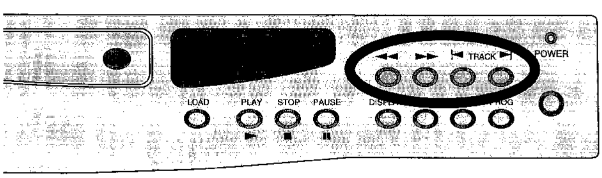
HDCD encoded CDs will be recognised automatically by the Alpha 8SE and 9CD players. To indicate this, a red LED (Light Emitting Diode) will illuminate behind the Arcam badge in the top left hand corner of the front panel whenever an HDCD disc is playing.

STOP ■

Press to stop the CD playing.
The display will show an '0' and the number of tracks.

PAUSE ▮▮

Press to pause the disc (interrupt play).
Press 'PAUSE' again to resume play from the same point.

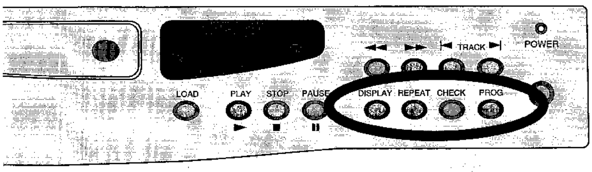


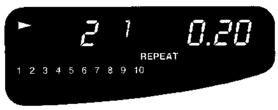
SEARCH ◄◄ ►►

Press ◄◄ to search back or ►► to search forward, for a particular passage during play. If the player is in 'PAUSE' mode the search will be at high speed and the sound will be muted (you will hear nothing).

TRACK - PREVIOUS or NEXT |◄ ►|

To start the CD with a track other than the first one, press ►| or |◄ to locate your desired track, then press 'PLAY'.
To select another track during play, press |◄ or ►| to locate the track. The player will automatically 'PLAY' after you have selected the track. Pressing |◄ once will restart the track currently playing. To select the previous track, press |◄ twice. To go back two tracks, press |◄ three times, and so on.





DISPLAY

Dims or turns the display off and on. Turning the display off will generally give a slight improvement in sound quality. Pressing 'DISPLAY' once turns the display off. To dim the display press the 'DISPLAY' button twice. To restore the display to full brightness press 'DISPLAY' a third time.

REPEAT

To repeat the entire CD or a pre-programmed selection of tracks press 'REPEAT' once. 'REPEAT' will illuminate on the display.
To repeat one particular track go to the track you wish to repeat by using the |◄ or ►| buttons (or the 0-9 keypad on the remote control) and press 'PLAY'. Then press the REPEAT button twice so that 'REPEAT 1' is illuminated on the display.
If you now select a different track, that one will be repeated instead. To cancel the repeat function press 'REPEAT' a third time.

PROG

To programme a selection of up to 24 tracks from a disc in any order. To program your choice of tracks press Track |◄ or ►| , or use the remote's 0-9 keypad or Track |◄ and ►| buttons, to locate the desired track.
Press 'PROG' to program the track into memory (RMS is illuminated on the display to indicate that you have begun a programmed sequence). Repeat these steps to program all the desired tracks into the player. The display will show the track numbers that have been programmed, the total length of the programmed sequence and how many tracks have been programmed by use of the number above the word 'STEP'. If you press |◄ or ►| or use the 0-9 keypad to direct dial to a track the number above the 'STEP' will change by one and start to flash until you press 'PROG'. After pressing 'PROG' the number will stop flashing. If you fail to press 'PROG' within about 5 seconds the display will also stop flashing and you will have to reselect the track you want to program.

Press 'PLAY' to start playback of the programmed tracks.
The existing program may be replayed by pressing 'PLAY'.
To clear the programmed sequence of tracks press STOP twice.

CHECK

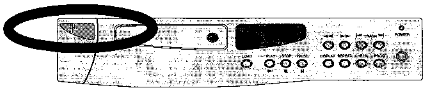
To confirm your programmed sequence, press 'CHECK'.
The first programmed track number and track time will be displayed. Subsequent pressing of the 'CHECK' button will display the next track details and total time of the sequence so far.
After checking the last selection 'END' is displayed for a few seconds. The display then reverts to showing the track details of the last programmed track.

Using the remote control

The buttons shown in white have the same functions as those on the front of the CD player.

Don't forget to fit the batteries and ensure they are inserted correctly into the back of the remote control before using it.

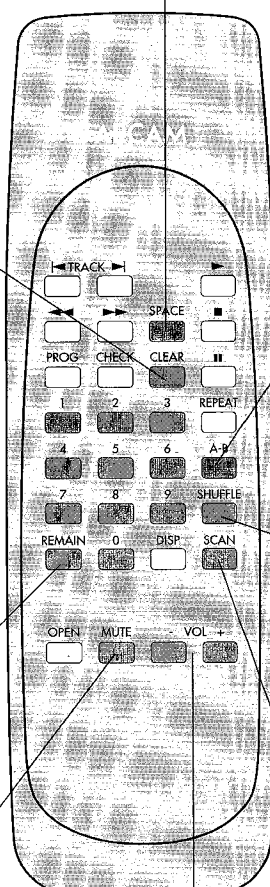
The remote control sends a message to an infra-red receiver which is located behind the ARCAM badge on the front of the CD player.



Do not place anything in front of the badge or the remote control may not work.

SPACE

This button automatically inserts a 4 second space between tracks in either normal or programmed play (see **PROG**). This enables the music search system of certain cassette decks to operate correctly when making recordings. The 'SPACE' indicator on the display is illuminated. Press the SPACE button a second time to cancel this function. The 4 second space is ignored when you use any of the search keys. NOTE: The 4 second time between tracks is added to the remaining and total time display for the disc e.g. an 11 track disc will have 40 seconds added to its total track time when using the 'SPACE' function. When the CD is between tracks the displayed time will count from -0.04 to 0.00 in one second increments and the 'SPACE' legend will flash, before the track begins to play.



CLEAR

If you make a mistake whilst programming you can delete the last track you programmed in by pressing the 'CLEAR' button. To delete a track from the middle of a programmed selection press 'CHECK' until you get to the track you wish to delete. Then press 'CLEAR'. To delete all the programmed tracks press the 'STOP' key twice or continually press 'CLEAR' until '0' is displayed.

0-9 KEYPAD

Allows direct access to individual tracks on the disc.
To select a track, press the corresponding keypad button then press 'PLAY'. For tracks greater than 9 just enter the appropriate numbers. ie for track 15 press 1, then 5, then 'PLAY'.

REMAIN

Press once to display the remaining time of the track. Press a second time to display the remaining time of the disc. Press 'REMAIN' a third time and the display will revert to its original setting showing the elapsed time of the track. If you press 'REMAIN' when the disc is not playing the total number of tracks and total playing time is displayed.

MUTE

Stops sound to the speaker outputs of certain Arcam amplifiers.
Please note: The 'VOLUME' control and 'MUTE' buttons have no effect on the audio output level of the Alpha CD players.

A-B

This button enables you to repeat any section of music within one track. Whilst the disc is playing press the 'A-B' button at the start of the section that you wish to repeat. 'REPEAT' is illuminated on the display and the 'A -' letter flashes. Press the A-B button a second time when you reach the end of the section you wish to repeat. The 'A-B' letters stop flashing and remain lit. The selected section of track will play repeatedly until you press the 'STOP' or ►| or |◄ . The backward ◄◄ and forward ►► search buttons can move back or forward within the selected section.

SHUFFLE

Press 'SHUFFLE' and then 'PLAY' to play all the tracks on the disc in random order. Press 'SHUFFLE' during play and shuffle play will begin from the current selection. 'SHUFFLE' will illuminate in the display. While the player is deciding which track to play the track indicator on the display will perform a scrolling routine. In 'SHUFFLE' mode the |◄ button will only replay the current track, and not select the previous track. To stop the shuffle function press 'SHUFFLE' a second time.

SCAN

Press to play the first 10 seconds of each track in sequence. The track number will be indicated on the display while 'SCAN' is selected. To continue listening to a 'scanned' track, press 'PLAY'. The player will leave the 'SCAN' mode once 'PLAY' has been pressed.

VOLUME + -

Adjusts the volume level on Arcam remote controllable amplifiers.
Please note: The 'VOLUME' control and 'MUTE' buttons have no effect on the audio output level of the Alpha CD players.

Technical notes

1

Alpha 7, 8, 8SE & 9 CD Players

These all use the same basic chassis and mechanics and the controls are identical. They differ in the system of digital to analogue (D/A) conversion used in each player. Lower specification Arcam CD players can be upgraded by your dealer to higher performance models by installing the appropriate Arcam D/A upgrade kit.

Alpha 7 CD Player

This has Delta-Sigma D/A conversion.

Alpha 8 CD Player

This benefits from Bitstream Pulse Width Modulation D/A converters incorporating 20 bit digital filtering.

Alpha 8SE CD Player

The DAC module of the 8SE utilises the Pacific microsonics PMD 100 filter and HDCD® (High Definition Compatible Digital) decoder, coupled to the high quality PWM (Pulse width modulated) bitstream DAC (digital to analogue convertor) used in the Alpha 8CD player. The benefits of this is improved sound quality on all conventional CDs plus the ability to reproduce the full dynamic range of the ever increasing number of HDCD encoded CDs now available.

Alpha 9 CD Player

The Alpha 9 CD incorporates the unique dCS Ring DAC™ which delivers state-of-the-art performance from its revolutionary 24 bit technology.
This new DAC is the result of a three year partnership between two British companies - Arcam and dCS (Data Conversion Systems Ltd), the world's leading supplier of professional audio ADCs and DACs. Ring DAC technology exhibits exceptionally linear response when decoding digital audio data, with the ability to resolve the finest acoustic details recorded on a compact disc.
In the Alpha 9 CD player, 24 bit digital filtering is provided by the Pacific Microsonics PMD100 chipset, which also performs HDCD (High Definition Compatible Digital) decoding of suitably encoded CDs. The sonic performance of the Alpha 9 makes it one of the very best CD players currently available, regardless of price.

2

For optimum sonic performance, the analogue power supply of the Alpha CD players is kept powered up all the time the unit is connected to the mains supply. The front panel power switch powers down all other circuitry.

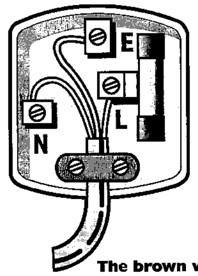
This means that even though the power switch is off, it may be possible to hear a slight residual hum coming from the mains transformer inside the CD player. This is perfectly normal. If the unit is to be left unused for an extended period, we recommend that it is disconnected from the mains supply by switching it off at the wall socket.

3

This appliance is normally supplied with a moulded mains plug already fitted to the lead. If for any reason the plug needs to be removed, it must be disposed of immediately and securely, as it is a potential shock hazard when inserted into the mains socket. The unit is double insulated and does not require an earth.

If the plug is removed then the remaining lead must be rewired as follows:

The blue wire must be connected to the terminal which is coloured blue or marked with the letter N.



The green and yellow wire must be connected to the terminal which is coloured green and yellow, or marked with the letter E or the safety earth symbol.

A 5 AMP fuse should be fitted.

The brown wire must be connected to the terminal which is coloured brown or marked with the letter L.

4

For convenience and ease of use, Alpha CD players are supplied with an infra-red remote control handset. The handset transmits Philips RC-5 type codes.

POSITIONING

Always place the CD player or transport on a level, firm surface. Placing your player on a set of dedicated sorbothane isolation feet will isolate the unit from its surroundings as well as absorbing the vibrations created within the player itself. You will generally hear some sonic improvements, which makes this an extremely cost-effective upgrade.

RADIO INTERFERENCE

The Alpha 7/8/8SE/9 CD players are digital audio devices which have been designed to very high standards of electromagnetic compatibility.
Both CD players and digital to analogue converters (DACs) generate, and can radiate RF (radio frequency) energy. In some cases, this can cause interference with FM and AM radio reception. If this is the case, keep the CD player and its connecting cables as far from the tuner and its aerials as possible. Connecting the CD player and the tuner to different mains sockets can also help to reduce interference.
EC COUNTRIES - These products have been designed to comply with directive 89/336/EEC.
USA - These products comply with FCC requirements.

SAFETY STANDARD

Arcam Alpha CD players have been designed to meet the IEC 65 international electrical safety standard.

LASER RADIATION

If an Arcam Alpha CD player is operated whilst the outer casing is removed, invisible laser radiation could cause eye damage.

CLASS 1 LASER PRODUCT

For more details about HDCD and HDCD recordings please visit the Pacific Microsonics Website www.hdcd.com or contact them at Pacific Microsonics Inc. 32990 Alvarado Niles Road, Suite 910.
Union City, California 94587-3106, USA
Telephone: 510 475 8000 Fax: 510 475 8005

Technical specification

Alpha 7	16 bit multi-level Delta-Sigma digital to analogue conversion.
Alpha 8	20 bit resolution digital filtering and 1 bit PWM DAC with balanced analogue filter stages.
Alpha 8SE	1 bit PWM DAC plus HDCD
Alpha 9	High resolution proprietary multi-bit current output digital to analogue conversion. 24 bit dCS Ring DAC plus HDCD

Laser pick-up	3 beam	Power consumption(max)		25VA max
Laser wavelength	780nm	Dimensions W/D/H mm.		430x290x85
Numerical Aperture	0.45	Weight	Alpha 7	3.6kg nett/ 5.1kg packed
Dynamic Range	96dB		Alpha 8	4.0kg nett/ 5.5kg packed
Signal to noise ratio (CCIR)	100dB		Alpha 8SE	4.1kg nett/ 5.6kg packed
Harmonic distortion (0db, 1kHz)	<0.01%		Alpha 9	4.1kg nett/ 5.6kg packed
Frequency response (-0.5dB)	20Hz-20kHz			
Output level (0db)	2.3Vrms	Supplied accessories		Mains lead
Output impedance	50Ω (150Ω on Alpha 7)			Remote Control
Minimum recommended load	5kΩ			2xAAA batteries
Digital output connection	75Ω co-axial	E&OE		

Guarantee

WORLDWIDE GUARANTEE

This entitles you to have the unit repaired free of charge, during the first two years after purchase, at any authorised Arcam distributor provided that it was originally purchased from an authorised Arcam dealer or distributor. The manufacturer can accept no responsibility for defects arising from accident, misuse, abuse, wear and tear, neglect or through unauthorised adjustment and/or repair, neither can they accept responsibility for damage or loss occurring during transit to or from the person claiming under the guaranteed.

The warranty covers:

Parts and labour costs for two years from the purchase date. After two years you must pay for both parts and labour costs. The warranty does not cover transportation costs at any time.

CLAIMS UNDER GUARANTEE

This equipment should be packed in the original packing and returned to the dealer from whom it was purchased, or failing this, directly to the Arcam distributor in your country of residence. It should be sent carriage prepaid by a reputable carrier - NOT by post. No responsibility can be accepted for the unit whilst in transit to the dealer or distributor and customers are therefore advised to insure the unit against loss or damage whilst in transit.

For further details contact Arcam at:

ARCAM Customer Support Department, Pembroke Avenue,
Denny Industrial Centre, Waterbeach,
Cambridge, CB5 9PB, England.
Telephone: (01223) 203203 Fax: (01223) 863384
e-mail: custserv@arcam.co.uk

PROBLEMS?

If your dealer is unable to answer any query regarding this or any other Arcam product please contact Arcam Customer Support on +44 (0)1223 203203 or write to us at the above address and we will do our best to help you.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

This product was designed and manufactured to meet strict quality and safety standards. There are, however, some installation and operation precautions of which you should be particularly aware:

1. Read Instructions All the safety and operating instructions should be read before the appliance is operated.

2. Retain Instructions The safety and operating instructions should be retained for future reference.

3. Heed Warnings All warnings on the appliance and in this handbook should be adhered to.

4. Follow Instructions All operating and use instructions should be followed.

5. Water and Moisture The appliance should not be used near water - for example near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement or swimming pool, etc.

6. Racks and Stands The appliance should be used only with a rack or stand that is recommended for use with audio equipment. If the equipment is on a portable rack it should be moved with care. Quick stops, excessive force, and uneven surfaces may cause the combination to overturn.

7. Ventilation The appliance should be situated so that its location or position does not interfere with its proper ventilation. For example, the appliance should not be situated on a bed, sofa, rug or similar surface that may block the ventilation openings or placed in a built-in installation, such as a bookcase or cabinet that may impede the flow of air through the ventilation openings.

8. Heat The appliance should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, stoves or other appliances (including amplifiers) that produce heat.

9. Power Sources The appliance should be connected to a power supply only of the type described in this handbook or as marked on the appliance.

10. Grounding Precautions should be taken so that the grounding means of the appliance is not defeated.

11. Power-Cord Protection Power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords and plugs, and the point where they exit from the appliance.

12. Cleaning Unplug the unit from the mains supply before cleaning. The appliance should normally only require a wipe over with a clean, dry, lint-free cloth. If it is heavily soiled then a cloth slightly dampened with a water/washing up liquid solution may be used. Dry the unit afterwards with a dry cloth.

We do not advise the use of furniture type cleaning sprays/ polishes as this can cause white marks, which are very difficult to remove, if the unit is then wiped over with water.

13. Power Lines An outdoor antenna/ aerial should be located away from power lines.

14. Non-use Periods The power cord of the appliance should be unplugged from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time.

15. Object and Liquid Entry Care should be taken so that objects do not fall and liquids are not spilled into the enclosure through any openings.

16. Abnormal Smell If an abnormal smell or smoke is detected from the appliance, immediately turn the power off and unplug the unit from the wall outlet.
Contact your dealer immediately.

17. Damage Requiring Service The appliance should be serviced by qualified service personnel when:

A. The power-supply cord or the plug has been damaged or:

B. Objects have fallen, or liquid has spilled into the appliance or:

C. The appliance has been exposed to rain or:

D. The appliance does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance or:

E. The appliance has been dropped or the enclosure damaged.

18. Servicing You should not attempt to service the appliance beyond that described in this handbook. All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.

ARCAM

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